GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:679
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
NATIONAL WAGE POLICY
BIR SING MAHATO

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose for introduce a new National Wage Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to introduce the new National Wage Policy at the earliest?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) to (c) : The issue relating to formulation of National Wage Policy has been discussed at various fora over the years. However, the same has not been conceived so far because wages are linked with factors like income, prices of essential commodities, paying capacity etc. which vary from State to State and industry to industry. Therefore it is not possible to maintain uniformity in the wages throught the country.

In the absence of an uniform National Wage Policy the Central Government floated National floor level minimum wage at Rs.35/- per day, which is the rock bottom level, in 1996, based on the recommendations of National Commission on Rural Labour and subsequent increase in the price level. In August, 1998, the floor level minimum wage was increased to Rs.40/- and the Hon`ble Prime Minister wrote to all the State governments requesting them to ensure that in none of the scheduled employments, the minimum wages were below Rs.40/- per day. The floor level wage has further been raised to Rs.45/- with effect from November, 1999 on the basis of rise in the Consumer Price Index.